

INNOVATOR

Accelerating Innovation for the American Driving Experience

Highway Professionals Explore Innovations Virtually

More than 2,400 transportation professionals learned about five innovations being promoted in the second round of Every Day Counts during virtual summits.

The Federal Highway Administration used the virtual format to reach a broader audience at lower cost with information on the innovations. The spring 2013 summits, held at central locations in each state to minimize travel for participants, followed fall 2012 summits on eight technologies and practices held at eight locations around the country.

Surveys showed that participants responded positively to the virtual summits. More than 90 percent gave good to excellent ratings to the overall summits and the summit format of Web conferences using multiple virtual rooms for presentations and state caucuses on innovation implementation.

Every Day Counts: Building a Culture of Innovation for the 21st Century, a new FHWA report available at www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts/pdfs/edc2_2013.pdf, documents the spring 2013 and fall 2012 summits. It explains all 13 technologies and practices FHWA is promoting under EDC2 and outlines state plans for deploying them.

Environmental Solutions

The spring summits focused on five 21st century solutions that can shorten the project delivery process, enhance roadway safety and improve environmental sustainability. Environment summits covered two of them: geospatial data collaboration and implementing quality environmental documentation.

FHWA is promoting geospatial data collaboration, which uses Web-based geographic information services, to facilitate information sharing among project delivery stakeholders and improve the quality and speed of project decisions. Several states have developed GIS-based tools and are using geospatial data to support environmental streamlining efforts.

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States Progress on ABC Use

State transportation departments, local public agencies and contractors are making rapid progress on the use of accelerated bridge construction, an Every Day Counts innovation. ABC applies innovative planning, design, materials and construction methods in a safe and cost-effective way to cut on-site construction time when building or replacing a bridge.

With ABC, it's possible to replace a bridge in 48 to 72 hours and reduce planning and construction efforts by years. ABC reduces traffic impacts, improves safety and can lower project costs. The Federal Highway Administration is advancing three ABC technologies under the second round of Every Day Counts: prefabricated bridge elements and systems, slide-in bridge construction and geosynthetic reinforced soil integrated bridge systems.

"The PBES deployment team achieved great success during the first round of EDC," said Timothy Cupples, FHWA's technical lead on EDC's ABC effort. "More than 800 bridges nationwide were designed or constructed with PBES during EDC1." PBES employs bridge components that are built off-site or near the site and are rapidly moved into position. States are planning a variety of activities to increase PBES use.

The Montana Department of Transportation will build or rehabilitate at least three bridges per year over the next

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